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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ARKANSAS PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION HONORS INDIVIDUALS WITH 2016 AWARDS**

**HOT SPRINGS, AR** – The Arkansas Pharmacists Association (APA) with other sponsoring organizations, presented eleven awards to deserving individuals on Thursday, June 23, during its 134th Annual Convention held at The Embassy Suites and Convention Center in Hot Springs from June 23-25.

APA 2016 Award recipients include:

**2016 Pharmacist of the Year:** Keith Larkin, Pharm.D., of Fort Smith. This award recognizes pharmacists for outstanding contributions to the profession and the advancement of pharmacy.

**2016 Distinguished Young Pharmacist of the Year:** Kevin Barton, Pharm.D. of Centerton. The award recipient must have graduated from pharmacy school less than 10 years ago and be active, involved and interested in the future of the profession.

**2016 Bowl of Hygeia Award:** Jon Wolfe, Ph.D., R.Ph of Little Rock. The award, sponsored by the American Pharmacists Association Foundation and National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations, with support from Boehringer-Ingelheim, was established to honor pharmacists who have contributed to the progress of their community through community service.

**2016 Innovative Pharmacy Practice Award:** Nikki Scott, Pharm.D., of Russellville. This award was established by the APA in cooperation with the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations to recognize a pharmacist who has demonstrated a prominent spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship in the practice of pharmacy.

**2016 Cardinal Health Generation Rx Award:** John Kirtley, Pharm.D., of Little Rock. This award honors a pharmacist who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to raising awareness of the dangers of prescription drug abuse among the general public and among the pharmacy community.

**2016 Percy Malone Award for Public Service:** Representative Justin Boyd, Pharm.D., of Fort Smith. This award honors a pharmacist who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to raising awareness of the dangers of prescription drug abuse among the general public and among the pharmacy community.

**2016 Guy Newcomb Award:** Senator Ron Caldwell and Representative Michelle Gray. This award recognizes individuals who, by their legislative influence and leadership, have distinguished themselves as political friends of Arkansas pharmacy.

**2016 Lifetime Achievement Award:** Mark Riley, Pharm.D. This award honors a pharmacist who has devoted their life and their career to improving the field of pharmacy and have made an impact that affects healthcare at a local, state, and national level.

**2016 Charles M. West Leadership Award:** Mrs. Kaley Scott Achor, fourth-year student at the UAMS College of Pharmacy, received an award to recognize her leadership skills and contribution to the profession of pharmacy.

**2016 Arkansas Pharmacy Foundation Award:** Ms. Shelbie Stickels, fourth-year student at the Harding University College of Pharmacy, received an award from the Arkansas Pharmacy Foundation to recognize her leadership skills and contribution to the profession of pharmacy.

*The Arkansas Pharmacists Association, founded in 1882, is the statewide professional association representing approximately 2,200 pharmacists in Arkansas. APA strives to further the professional advancement of pharmacists, advocate the value of pharmacy, and safeguard the health and well-being of every Arkansan. Its mission is to advance a professional and business environment for Arkansas pharmacists to be successful and fulfilled in serving patients.*

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